

ALBERT'S DOG LOUNGE ADOPTION COUNSELOR CHECKLIST

PLEASE REMEMBER AN ADOPTION PHOTO!

1. Decompression- This is the #1 most important thing to discuss. It is vitally important ALL adopters understand that dogs require decompression for an adoption to be successful.
 - If adopting a post transport, it's important to remind adopter that they have just traveled many hours away from everything that was familiar to them in a loud van with dogs and people they don't know. Measures need to be taken to allow them to RELAX, to get used to all the new sights, smells, and sounds of their new environment.
 - It's perfectly ok (and not mean; it's actually quite the opposite!) to put them in a room by themselves and let them be. **The dog adopters see today is not going to be the same dog 3 days from now and is also not going to be the same dog 2 weeks from now. This transition can be eased with proper decompression.**
 - During this time, it is imperative that new people, new situations, and new dogs be VERY SLOWLY INTRODUCED, and NOTHING the first week or so. (No parks, no having friends over, no new dogs and no trips to the vet **(unless medically necessary)** or the pet store) New dogs need time to decompress.
2. Dogs Age – Albert's Dog Lounge does not give a dogs age unless we have documentation of an actual birthdate. Instead, we get to know each dog as an individual and will do our best to describe each of our dogs based on personality and their needs. Below is how we age a dog based on categorization.
 - Puppy - Under 6 months
 - Young Adult - 6 months to 2 years
 - Adult - 2 years to 8 years
 - Senior - 8 years to 12 years
 - Golden Oldie - 12+ years
3. Heartworm preventatives- **Preventatives should be given YEAR-ROUND!**
 - Typically, it takes roughly 6 months from the time a dog gets bit by a mosquito that is infected with heartworm larvae until a dog tests positive. Preventatives not only kill any present "microfilaria" (baby HWs), but they create an environment not conducive to microfilaria growth.
 - With typically milder winters happening each year, mosquitoes are not dying in northern states like they have in the past, thus a dog CAN still become infected in the winter months when not on preventatives.
 - Preventatives cost about \$10-\$15 a month. Heartworm treatments can cost upwards of \$2000, PLUS heartworm treatment is HARD on a dog. Some do not survive. They have chemicals being injected into them to kill the heartworms, they can't be active for weeks, and it just plain sucks.
 - ★ **There are alternatives to the monthly pill, such as 6-month and 12- month heartworm injections.**
4. Name/ID tags- The Albert's name tag and collar should be left on the dog until new owners get their own name tag!
 - If your new dog gets loose (accidents happen), the finder will be able to call Albert's Dog Lounge, and the dog can be reunited with his owner very quickly!
 - Once an adopter gets their new tag, please encourage them to mail the Albert's tag back to Albert's Dog Lounge for the next rescue dog who needs it.
 - ★ **A tag (without the O-ring) can be taped inside an envelope and mailed with a stamp. If you add the O-ring, additional postage is required.**

5. Rabies Tags – Actual rabies tags are not required by law to be issued in several states or by some shelters. Albert's has consulted with the head vet for the state of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture on this. **The rabies certificate provided in your folder is all that is needed for licensing and proof of vaccination.**
 - The tag is simply a means for officials to quickly identify the owner and determine if your dog is vaccinated in the event it is at large and bites someone.
 - Until your dog can get your next rabies vaccine, where you will receive a hard tag from your vet, your dog should always have ID tags on and you should always have a copy of the rabies certificate available.
6. Microchip- Point out where the chip number is (ON THE FRONT OF THE HEALTH COVER SHEET)
We WILL register the dog for them for FREE for the life of the dog.
 - The adopters should watch for an email from FiNano confirming the chips registration information.
 - If they don't get an email from Fi Nano upon payment of their dog, they should check their spam folder. If still no email, direct them to contact us by email albertsdoglounge@gmail.com.
7. Food- Kindly recommend a quality dog food. We do not take a formal stance on one brand over another.
 - Avoid foods where the primary ingredients are corn, wheat, soy, or anything that is a "bi-product". This allows owners to switch flavors and brands of dog food without getting upset tummies.
8. Health Cover sheet -This is the sheet that has all the vaccines given, and when they are due. This is for the adopter's reference.
 - This MUST be reviewed at a high level with adopters.
 - Point out when next Heartworm prevention is due, and any medications.
 - If a dog has previously tested heartworm positive and was treated, it's IMPERATIVE that we explain to adopters that they should NOT be testing their dog for heartworm again until 9 months after the last injection date.
 - ✦ **It takes approximately 9 months for adult heartworm to die and be absorbed by the body.**
 - ✦ **Adopters MUST keep dogs on heartworm preventatives to prevent any larvae from becoming adults and having to be re-treated. If treated and on heartworm preventatives, it's more than 96% successful.**
9. Adopters will receive a text from Petcademy immediately after the adoption is closed. Please review the Petcademy flyer in the folder. They provide post adoption Customized training and behavioral support free of charge for the first 30 days, with the option to upgrade for a year.
10. Remaining medical documents/vet records- Make sure the adopters see these papers and let them know these can go to their vet, so they have records of the dog's medical history.
11. New Vet Appointment - adopters should make an appointment with their vet AFTER the first 2 weeks, unless medically necessary. Please allow your new dog to settle in and get comfortable. It is important for your vet to know you have a new pet and get your dog's vaccination and medical history on file. Your vet will also need this info to issue you the dog's next heartworm preventative.

- **IMPORTANT TO MENTION: IF the dog needs to see the vet, it should. Medical treatment IF NEEDED should not be delayed for decompression.**

10. Housebreaking – Regardless of what the bio says about a dog being housebroken – **PLAN ON ACCIDENTS!**

- Dogs are coming to a new climate, new weather, no trees, grasses, pollens, new house, and new people. It's very foreign and scary. Dogs WILL have accidents until they adjust, learn about YOU, learn your routine, expectations, and the layout of the land.
 - ✦ **In the interim, you can use belly bands for boys, or diapers for girls. Both can be found on Amazon or at your local pet supply store.**
 - ✦ **An adopter MUST understand that this will be true regardless of what the bio says and to have patience with their newly adopted dog as it learns and acclimates.**

11. Other Documents- There should be several articles in the folder, and a flyer inviting new adopters to our private Facebook page.

- Remind adopters to review each of these articles completely. They have great information about decompression and doing dog introductions. (This article is N/A if they have no other pets). **The dog's success is 100% going to be dependent on the new adopter's patience.**
- Please encourage adopters to join our private Facebook group. Not only is it a great place to share trials and tribulations, but also a great resource for help. We have a groomer, pet supply store owner (for nutrition questions), and a trainer on the page to help with post adoption issues/questions/concerns.

12. Trial Period - All dogs are on a two-week built-in trial period, as noted within the adoption contract. If the dog is not a fit and is returned within 14 days of adoption, the adoption fee will be reimbursed 100% once the dog is returned to the designated foster home.

- After 14 days, the adoption fee is no longer reimbursed.
- Adoptions should not come down to money as we only want the best fit possible. If it is nearing the end of 14 days and there is any uncertainty, please email albertsdoglounge@gmail.com and we will attempt to work with you on extending the trial period. This is not guaranteed and done on a case-by case basis.

13. Post-adoption emails – Once the adoption is completed in our system, you should receive an email from shelterluv.com with the subject: Important Documents from Albert's Dog Lounge. This email will contain your electronic receipt of your adoption, a copy of the adoption contract, and a copy of the health cover sheet located in your folder, also called the medical history.

- If you donated along with your adoption fee, that will be noted on the receipt as well and can be used for tax purposes.

14. Decompression- Touch on this again! It is SO important for these dogs to have proper decompression to be successful in their new home!